

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00270 271911Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDE-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W

-----281446Z 089719 /47

R 271646Z MAY 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2166

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0270

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 23-29

1. THE MAY 24 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS WAS UNEVENTFUL. WESTERN REPS STRESSED THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSALS AND THAT THOSE PROPOSALS MERITED THE POSITIVE RESPONSE WHICH
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00270 271911Z

THE WEST HAS BEEN SEEKING FROM THE EAST. WESTERN REPS ALSO CRITICIZED THE NATURE OF THE GENERAL COMMITMENT REQUIRED BY THE EAST OF NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN A FIRST STAGE REGARDING THEIR SECOND-STAGE REDUCTIONS AS TANTAMOUNT TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH. EASTERN REPS MAINTAINED THEY HAD GIVEN A CONSIDERED REPLY TO THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS.

WHILE THE OFFER TO REDUCE CERTAIN US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS WAS A POSITIVE FEATURE, THOSE PROPOSALS WERE UNACCEPTABLY TIED TO AGREEMENT TO THE OVERALL WESTERN REDUCTION PROGRAM AIMED AT CHANGING THE EXISTING APPROXIMATELY EQUAL FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO UNILATERAL WESTERN ADVANTAGE. EASTERN REPS RECALLED THAT WESTERN LEADERS HAD PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS A MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT AND THAT THE EAST HAD GIVEN WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR CORRECTING THE ARBITRARY OVERESTIMATE OF EASTERN FORCES USED BY THE WEST TO SUPPORT ITS CALL FOR ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS. AFTER COMPLAINING THAT WESTERN QUERIES ABOUT EASTERN DATA SUBMITTED AT THE PREVIOUS INFORMAL SESSION WERE REPETITIOUS, EASTERN REPS GAVE SOME ANSWERS AND EXCHANGED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS REGARDING MANPOWER FIGURES TABLED BY EAST AND WEST.

2. FRG REP BEHRENDT MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MAY 26 PLENARY MEETING. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR PARTICIPANTS TO ADDRESS THE OUTCOME RESULTING FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREEMENT AS THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. FRG REP POINTED OUT THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS PROVIDED FOR AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF PARITY WHEREAS THE EAST WAS BLOCKING PROGRESS BY INSISTING, AS IT HAD FROM THE OUTSET OF THE TALKS, ON A REDUCTION METHOD WHICH WOULD LEAD TO AN OUTCOME DETRIMENTAL TO WESTERN SECURITY.

3. IN RESPONDING TO A REQUEST AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00270 271911Z

PRESS BRIEFING FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE FRG STATEMENT, THE EASTERN SPOKESMEN ASSERTED THAT DATA TABLED BY THE EAST PROVED THAT THERE WAS AN APPROXIMATE BALANCE BETWEEN THE MANPOWER STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO FORCES UNDER DISCUSSION. AT THE SAME BRIEFING, AN EAST GERMAN CORRESPONDENT ASKED THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN WHETHER FRG REP BEHRENDT HAD REFERRED IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE MANPOWER FIGURES ON A NATIONAL BASIS. THE EAST GERMAN DID NOT PRESS THE ISSUE AFTER BEING TOLD SIMPLY THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS BELIEVED CONSIDERATION OF FIGURES FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES WOULD CONSTITUTE THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP IN THE EXAMINATION OF DATA. RESOR

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